Women and children trafficked from Assam

†1765. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:
SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that trafficking of women and children from Assam is still going on and a large number of women and children have been taken out of Assam since 1996;

(b) if so, whether Government has provided counselling/cooperation to Assam Government to check it; and

(c) the action being taken by Government to completely stop it and punish the guilty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) As per the report received from Government of Assam the number of women/children trafficked out from Assam, since 1996 is given in the Statement. (*See* below).

(b) The Union Government has advised all the State Governments to deal with the crime of trafficking in a holistic manner and to evolve a effective and comprehensive strategy encompassing rescue, relief and rehabilitation of victims besides taking deterrent action against the law violators.

(c) 'Police' and 'Public Order' are State subjects and the State Governments are primarily responsible for preventing and combating the crime of human trafficking. However, the Central Government has taken several initiatives for combating trafficking of women and children for commercial sexual exploitation, which, *inter-alia*, include:—

1. In the Ministry of Women and Child Development a Central Advisory Committee (CAC) on implementation of the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act (ITP) has been constituted under the Chairmanship of Secretary, MWCD, which has representatives from States as well as Central Organizations and NGOs *etc.* and holds quarterly meetings.

2. The Ministry of Home Affairs has set up a Nodal Cell to coordinate, matters relating to trafficking in human beings between the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations and other related Ministries *etc.* It has also issued an advisory dated 5th July, 2006 to all the State/Union Territory Governments in this regard.

3. The Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D) has prepared a training manual on "Human Trafficking Handbook for Investigators" for use in the Police Training Institutes. BPR&D is organizing regional anti-trafficking workshops for sensitizing police personnel towards the safety and security of women. Several such workshops have been held in various cities till date.

4. A Regional Task Force has been set up for implementation of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Convention on Preventing and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Combating Trafficking in Women and Children for Prostitution and a draft Standard Operation Procedures (SOP) has been circulated among all Member States. The comments/views of some of the Member States are still awaited on the proposed SOP.

5. Besides the MWCD also runs Shelter homes, such as Short Stay Homes (more than 300) Swadhar Homes (about 220) for women in difficult circumstances. These cater to trafficked women/girls rescued or runaway from brothels or other places, and also provides for women/girls victims of sexual crimes who are disowned by family or who do not want to go back to respective family for various reasons.

6. A new scheme for prevention of trafficking by the name UJJAWALA has been launched for preventive activities and for rescue and rehabilitation of victims of trafficking for commercial sexual exploitation with the setting up of special homes and provision of rescue cost, counseling, medical care, legal aid, *etc*.

7. There are several amendments proposed in the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956 to widen its scope, focus on traffickers and make punishments more stringent for them.

8. Further the Ministry of Women and Child Development in collaboration with the National Institute of Public Co-operation and Child Development (NIPCCD) and UNICEF has developed several manuals for training of stakeholders such as 'Judicial Handbook on Combating Trafficking of Women and Children for Commercial Sexual Exploitation' and others.

Statement

Women/Children taken out from the Assam since 1996 *to August,* 2008 *year-wise are given below*

1996	Nil
1997	Nil
1998	10
1999	06
2000	15
2001	02
2002	05
2003	08
2004	01
2005	04
2006	12
2007	17
2008 (up to August)	05